

**AUTOMATIC TEMPORARY PRECISION
REDUCTION FOR ENHANCED COMPRESSION**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer system having data registers for storing uncompressed data, a data queue for storing data to be compressed, a compressor for compressing data in the data queue, and a compression ratio monitor for determining the compression ratio of the compressed data. The computer system also includes a compression control register that holds control information, and a precision reducer for reducing the precision of the data prior to that data being stored in the data queue. The precision reducer responds to control information to reduce the precision of the data such that the resulting reduced precision data can be more efficiently compressed. The control information, and thus the operation of the precision reducer, depends on the compression ratio monitor.